

REMARKS

Claims 6, 10-19, and 29-30 have been canceled. Claims 1, 7 – 9, and 21 – 22 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1, 7 – 9, and 20 – 28 are pending.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 7 – 9, and 20 – 28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

The rejection is respectfully traversed. With respect to claims 1 and 22, claims 1 and 22 have been amended to recite a passive radio frequency transponder wherein an “environmental condition causes an irreversible change in a material property of a component of the interface such that the transponder remains in the second active state even if power is not supplied continuously to the interactive radio frequency tag apparatus.” The specification provides support for the amendments to claims 1 and 22, including without limitation at page 16, lines 13-19 and Figures 8 and 9. The Examiner cited Santin as teaching irreversibly changing the state of the transponder. Santin teaches of a device that includes a battery and irreversibly transitions between the sleep mode, the monitor mode, and the stop mode by using battery power to store data in a memory in response to activation of one or the other of two pull strips. The approach taught by Santin therefore requires a power supply to store data reflecting a change of state, does not teach “an irreversible change in a material property of a component” as recited in claims 1 and 22, and the pull strips described by Santin are not environmental conditions as recited in claims 1 and 22. Claims 1 and 22 are therefore believed to be allowable.

Claims 7 – 9 and 20 – 21 and claims 23 – 28 depend from claims 1 and 22, respectively, and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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